



Collingwood Primary School

Friday 12th June 2020

Dear Collingwood Family member,

Collingwood's number of pupils increased slightly this week and is generally in line with national figures. This week we had "bubbles" of 4-15 children in each room.

I was disappointed with the Government's decision not to return more children to school and leave any additional offer of schooling to Headteachers. Unless we build an extension and employ more staff, we are unable to offer more places at Collingwood whilst 2m social distancing is in place. We have no idea what the situation will be in September but are planning as if school will be back to normal and will adjust our plans with whatever announcements are made between now and then. Part time school for only some pupils is not what any of us wanted but it is the best we can offer in line with the current government guidance. We too think it is ridiculous that pupils are mixing with different people in the community but cannot do so in school!

What's new this week:

We are trying to arrange Bikeability for Yr 6 in small groups. We have emailed the provider's risk assessment out to Yr 6 parents and participation will be optional.

We are hoping that Year 6 pupils will have some contact with staff from William De Ferrers before August and believe that parents have been contacted directly by the school.

The Rotary Club will not be providing dictionaries for Yr 6 leavers this year but plan to donate books for our library so that more pupils can benefit.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have appointed two very experienced teachers. Mrs Pasquale and Mrs Burroughs will be joining us in September to fill the vacancies left by Miss Hiatt and Mrs Newbert.

This term we are focussed on provision for pupils who have been offered a place for their child to start school, organising staffing and reviewing our curriculum to address the gaps in pupils knowledge and mental health needs for September.

Feedback about Zoom calls with pupils at home and SEN meetings held with parents online has been very positive, thank you.

What you need to know going forward:

Pupils in school: Behaviour and social distancing by pupils in school has been amazing, well done everyone!

We have promised Year 6 that they will still have a Leavers Disco with us, even if this means coming back one evening next year.

Free school meals: As pupils return to school they will receive vouchers for a lower amount. School meals can still be booked for the days pupils are in school (for any pupil). If you wish to apply for free school meals, see www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals. Contact us if you have any questions about free school meals, vouchers or the food bank on 01245 322258.

Home Learning: We will continue to provide home learning resources for children in all year groups. Questions about the curriculum can still be directed to teachers via email but please do not be surprised if they are passed on to other staff to respond. Most of your other questions can be answered by contacting us on 01245 322258.

Safeguarding: As always, please contact Mrs Buckland-Garnett, Mrs Minister as Designated Safeguarding Leads, or any teacher if you are concerned about a child's safety or phone 999 in an emergency. Please see our updated Safeguarding and Child Protection policies on the school website. www.collingwoodschool.net

Key Worker children Returning:

We have been contacted by a number of parents requiring childcare for pupils not in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 6, as they return to work. **Please be aware that not every parent who is working is considered to be a Key worker. We are working at capacity whilst the 2m social distance rule is in place and cannot make additional floor space regardless of how much you need childcare. It is vital that you discuss your childcare needs with your employer.** When Key Worker children return to school, we ask you to complete a self-declaration which includes telling us the category under which you are defined as a Key worker. The definition and list of categories for Key workers was updated for 1st June and can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

We made it clear, before children returned on 1st June that they would not be able to change days or bubbles. **This remains the case until the Government guidance on not mixing "bubbles" changes. Only Key worker pupils are able to come to school for more than 2 days and therefore stay in their own mixed age group and cannot mix with their own peer group bubble. I am afraid that there are no exceptions to this rule as it is for your children's and our safety.**

Reminders about how school looks this term:

If you decide not to return your EYFS, Year 1 or Year 6 child to school, please let us know, **each Monday**, using the normal absence procedures as we will contact you if we have not heard from you. We will only be accepting new returners on the Monday or Thursday of each week so **you will need to let us know by the Thursday of the week before** on 01245 322258 or admin@collingwood.essex.sch.uk

Who should not attend school:

- Any child or adult who is "clinically extremely vulnerable", even to drop off or collect. If someone in your household is 'extremely clinically vulnerable' (shielded), the DfE guidance states that pupils should only attend school if stringent social distancing can be adhered to. It may be

possible for a Year 6 child to do this but this would be highly unlikely for a Year 1 or Reception child.

- Any child, parent or member of staff displaying symptoms or living with another person showing symptoms.
- Anyone who has been contacted by Track and Trace.
- Pupils in Years 2, 3, 4 and 5.

If a child or adult shows symptoms:

- Anyone can now be tested. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Any child or adult displaying symptoms at school, will be isolated in a separate office. The adult treating them will put on a face mask and gloves. Parents will be called to collect. We will inform parents individually of all pupils who we think may have had contact with a diagnosed person and then inform parents generally.

Social Distancing at School:

- The government acknowledges it might not be possible to keep young children apart, but says schools can mitigate the risk with "frequent hand cleaning", "regular cleaning" and "minimising contact and mixing".
- Staff attempt to maintain social distancing in school but may choose to get closer to comfort children if they become distressed.
- Although it will be discouraged, pupils may automatically touch someone to try to get their attention.
- In Yr 1 and 6 each child is sat at their own desk with their own equipment. Desks are spaced apart, with up to 9 pupils in each room (15 in the EYFS and Yr 6 double classrooms)
- EYFS pupils are not sat at desks all day and whilst sharing is limited, it is impossible to enforce.
- Children do not leave their classroom other than to go outside for adult led activities
- Whilst waiting, to drop off or collect, please ensure that you socially distance.

Adaptation to our Behaviour Policy:

We are fully aware that most children are likely to forget to socially distance at some point. If children INTENTIONALLY do not adhere to social distancing, we will continue to use our yellow, orange card system as children already understand this. We will follow this procedure:

1. remind your child this is a rule to keep everyone safe.
2. speak to you in front of your child
3. issue a yellow card (Your child will lose 2 privileges at school - please show your disappointment)
4. issue an orange card (Your child will lose 4 privileges at school - please show your disappointment)
5. Your offer of on site schooling will be withdrawn due to unsafe behaviour towards others.

PPE:

- Staff and pupils will not routinely wear face coverings.
- Regular hand washing and "catch it, bin it, kill it," is encouraged throughout the day.
- Children are encouraged to share their fears about the virus and experiences during lockdown.

Cleaning:

- On Wednesdays, school is open only for Key worker children as the whole building is thoroughly cleaned. The same happens on Friday/Saturday .
- Staff wipe surfaces, handles, light switches etc regularly and each night cleaners clean classrooms.

What we are currently able to offer under the government guidelines:

- A maximum of 8-9 pupils will fit in each room with 15 in EYFS and Yr 6. With additional key worker groups, all of our classrooms are being used which is why we cannot offer more than 2 days to pupils and cannot make new "bubbles".
- Adults cannot be with different "bubbles" so the adults onsite on Mon-Tues will be different to those here on Thurs- Fri other than sports coaches, office staff and myself. Children will not be able to swap groups or days.
- Key worker children remain together in their own "bubbles". **We will not merge these children in their peer groups as they are likely to attend on different days.**
- Staff are having to communicate by mobile because of this and have explained this to pupils.
- Year 6 use the car park gate, Year 1 use the Collingwood Road gate, (not the main gate). E.Y.F.S. use the main entrance gate, turn left and enter via the EYFS classroom door. Preschool use the side gate, on the playground, at the top of Benbow Drive.
- Children should bring as little into school as possible, a full, named water bottle which will stay on their own desk and be taken home for cleaning and a packed lunch in disposable bags is all they need. Trainers can be worn so that there is no need for PE bags. Uniform should be anything white and navy (no ties). Ideally we would like children to wear a clean set of clothes each day.
- Cover your child in "once a day" suncream as they will go outside every day for periods of adult led Physical activity and we cannot apply it for them.
- 7 'til 7 Club is currently closed until "bubbles" are able to mix.
- Working in such small groups is very intensive so, if work is complete and children are tired, we may let pupils watch a film, "play" or do artwork in the afternoons. Beware, your child is likely to be tired and grumpy when you get them back! They might also tell you about the strange lady who keeps waving at them through windows and shouting "hello" from a distance...don't worry, it is me!

Support:

The Children's Society website has some excellent information for parents regarding signs of exploitation by gangs <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/what-is-county-line>

The [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/grooming/) has some useful information about grooming on its website, including the signs, effects and how to report it. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/grooming/>

If you or your child inadvertently accesses sexual abuse material online it can be reported using the [Internet Watch Foundation website](#).

If you are struggling at home as a family, this resource hub for parents might help <https://essexfamilywellbeing.co.uk/covid-19-pandemic-resource-hub/>

If you are struggling with home learning, need help with a topic or subject, creating a routine, dealing with behaviour or managing the learning of several children this national parent helpline *is open six days*

a week and covers all areas of the curriculum across all phases of education. 0330 313 9162 (calls charged at local rate).

Compass 24/7 Domestic Abuse helpline - 0330 333 7 444 providing information, advice and guidance to anyone who has concerns about family, friends or themselves who may be victims of Domestic Abuse

Educational Psychology Service Parent Helpline (Essex) 01245 433293 Mondays and Wednesday 1pm - 5pm (during term time)

Keep safe, keep smiling, remember that we are on the end of the phone still and hopefully, we will see you all soon.

Mrs Buckland-Garnett